



120
Docket No. 60,469-055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Traktovenko, et al.
Serial No.: 10/036,678
Filed: 12/21/2001
Group Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Flandro, Ryan M.
Title: ELEVATOR LOAD BEARING TERMINATION ASSEMBLY

APR \$
3679
RECEIVED
MAR 02 2004
GROUP 3600

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patent
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Notice of Appeal in this application was entered on December 23, 2003. Appellant now submits its brief in the above-referenced application. Payment in the amount of \$330.00 is made by the enclosed Credit Card Payment Form. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Real Party in Interest

Otis Elevator Company is the real party in interest.

02/27/2004 JADD01 00000068 10036678

01 FC:1402

330.00 OP

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences.

Status of the Claims

The Examiner has already allowed claims 1-4, 10-12, 20, 21 and 28. The Examiner has also indicated that claim 25 is allowable.

Claims 5-9, which were withdrawn from consideration based upon an earlier restriction requirement, depend from allowed claim 1 and should be allowed also. Applicant requested this in the Response to the Final Office Action. The Advisory Action indicates that claims 5-9 are still withdrawn from consideration even though they should be allowed based upon their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 13-19, 23, 24 and 26 are on appeal.

Claims 13-16, 19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon U.S. Patent No. 5,243,739.

Claims 13-18, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) based upon U.S. Patent No. 4,536,921.

Claims 17 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon a combination of two references.

Status of Amendments

There are no unentered amendments.

Summary of the Invention

Elevator systems typically include elongated load bearing members such as ropes or belts. Terminations are used to secure the ends of the belts in place relative to other elevator system components or the building structure, for example. Conventional arrangements have used castings to form sockets and wedges. A difficulty associated with the traditional approach is that casting processes are relatively expensive. Further, most casting processes are not accurate enough to provide the dimensional tolerances needed for many situations. (Page 1, paragraphs 3 and 4).

This invention provides an improved device for securing an end of a load bearing member 22 in an elevator system. In one example, shown in Figures 4-7, an extruded socket portion 124 and an extruded wedge portion 126 cooperate with a brace member 132 (best seen in Figures 4 and 5) which also comprises an extruded metal part, to secure an end of the load bearing member. The wedge portion 126 in this example has an engaging surface 128 along the exterior surface of the wedge portion 126. The socket portion 124 includes engaging surfaces 130 facing in opposite directions. The load bearing member 22 is received between the engaging surfaces on the socket portion 124 and the wedge portion 126. (Page 4, paragraph 26).

The example brace member 132 includes a first interior surface 134 that engages one side of the exterior of the socket 124. Another interior surface 136 engages the load bearing member 22. A portion of the load bearing member 22 is received between the surface 136 on the brace member 132 and the exterior surface 138 on the socket portion 124. The surfaces 136 and 138 cooperate to grip the corresponding portion of the load bearing member 22. (Page 5, paragraph 27).

The illustrated embodiment includes a unique disassembly feature. The wedge portion 126 has an opening 170 extending at least partially into the wedge. The brace member 132 includes an

opening 172 extending through at least one of the brace sidewalls. The holes 170 and 172 face in the same direction when the device is assembled. When the wedge portion 126 is secured in place within the socket 124, which is received within the brace 132, the holes 170 and 172 are situated such that a tool can be inserted at least partially into the openings and manipulated to force the wedge portion 126 in a direction that allows removing the socket 124 from the brace 132 and then removing the wedge 126 from the socket. (Page 6, paragraph 32).

Independent claim 13, which is on appeal, recites an extruded socket portion and an extruded wedge portion. The various dependent claims recite additional structural features. Dependent claim 17 recites the openings in the sidewall of the brace and the wedge portion that are situated such that a tool can be received into the openings and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion relative to the brace. Dependent claim 19 recites that the brace portion has a load bearing member engaging surface that is adapted to secure a portion of the load bearing member between the brace member and the socket.

Independent claim 26 recites a socket portion, wedge portion and a brace member. The brace member includes an opening through at least one sidewall of the brace member and the wedge portion includes an opening. The openings are situated such that a tool can be received into the openings and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion relative to the brace.

Issues

Whether the final rejection of claims 13-16, 19 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon the *Schmidt* reference is proper when independent claim 13 clearly requires an extruded socket and an extruded wedge and the *Schmidt* reference does not disclose any extruded pieces.

Whether the final rejection of claims 13-18, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon the *Brendel* reference is proper when none of the portions of the *Brendel* reference are extruded pieces and there are no openings within the *Brendel* reference that can be situated in the manner required by claim 26.

Whether the rejection of claims 17 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon the proposed combination of *Schmidt* and *Reynolds* is proper where there is no benefit to making the combination and, therefore, no motivation and no *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Grouping of Claims

The Examiner has already admitted that claims 1-4, 10-12, 20, 21, 25 and 28 contain allowable subject matter. None of those claims are on appeal.¹

Every rejection of claims 13-19, 23, 24 and 26 is contested.

1. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon the *Schmidt* reference.

Claims 13-16, 19 and 23 were rejected as being anticipated by the *Schmidt* reference. Claims 13-16 and 23 stand or fall together for purposes of this appeal with regard to this particular rejection. Claim 19 stands alone.

¹ As mentioned above, claims 5-9, which depend from claim 1, should also be allowed because claim 1 has been allowed.

2. **The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon the *Brendel* reference.**

Claims 13-18, 24 and 26 have been rejected as being anticipated by the *Brendel* reference. Claims 13-16, 18 and 24 stand or fall together for purposes of this appeal with respect to this rejection. Claim 17 stands alone. Claim 26 stands alone.

3. **The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon the combination of the *Schmidt* and *Reynolds* references.**

Claims 17 and 26 stand rejected as being obvious. Claims 17 and 26 each stand alone for purposes of this appeal with respect to this rejection.

Argument

INTRODUCTION

None of the claims are anticipated. Claim 13 and all of its dependent claims recite an extruded socket and an extruded wedge. Neither of the allegedly anticipatory references discloses a single extruded piece. Independent claim 26 recites openings that are situated in a manner that is not possible to achieve using the allegedly anticipating *Brendel* reference.

There is no *prima facie* case of obviousness because there is no benefit to making the Examiner's proposed combination of the *Schmidt* and *Reynolds* references. None of the claims can be considered obvious.

THE CITED REFERENCES

A. United States Patent No. 5,243,739 (“the *Schmidt* reference”)

The *Schmidt* reference discloses a two-piece cable termination socket assembly that is described as being particularly useful in the mining industry. The intention of the design of the *Schmidt* reference was to provide separability between the socket housing 11 and the wedge 12. In column 2, lines 50-60, for example, *Schmidt* teaches cutting the cable and knocking the housing cap 15 off of the saddle 14 to remove the wedge 12. The design of the cap 15 and the saddle portion 14 facilitates such separation.

The *Schmidt* reference nowhere discloses how the portions of that arrangement are formed. Perhaps a casting or forging process could be used. It is clear from the illustrations that none of the parts are extruded because none of them have a continuous profile as would be present in an extruded part. The various contours and projections on the saddle portion 14 and the cap 15, for example, indicate that it is not possible to achieve those parts by an extrusion process. Neither the saddle portion 14 of the socket assembly 11, nor the wedge 12, are extruded pieces. It is impossible to conceive of a die through which metal could be forced to result in any of the components of the *Schmidt* reference.

B. United States Patent No. 4,536,921 (“the *Brendel* reference”)

The *Brendel* reference discloses a cable clamp arrangement having a clamping jaw 7, a breechblock 12, a clamping wedge 9 and a base 2. The *Brendel* reference teaches that the portions of its clamp can be shaped with punches, presses, or casting. (Column 8, lines 43-47) Nowhere

does the *Brendel* reference disclose, suggest or utilize any extruded pieces. Upon inspection of the illustrations of the *Brendel* reference, it is impossible to conceive how any of those components could be formed using an extrusion process.

As can be appreciated by considering Figures 1, 2 and 3, the wedge 9 is placed between the base 2 and the clamping jaw 7. The breechblock 12 is then manipulated about the pivot pin 13 until the curved surface 14 engages the carrier bolt 11 as seen in Figure 3. When this occurs, the wedge 9 is pulled down as tight as possible into position with the clamping jaws. In this position, the wedge cannot be moved down any further. The curved surface 14 engages the carrier bolt 11 such that the wedge cannot be manipulated in an opposite, upward direction according to Figure 3. This operation is important to understand when considering the Examiner's interpretation of the *Brendel* reference for purposes of anticipating claims 17 and 26.

The opening 10 in the wedge 9 and the "opening" 14 of the breechblock 12 cannot be situated in a manner that would allow a tool to enter or pass through them to manipulate the wedge relative to the breechblock 12. The only time that the wedge is manipulatable relative to the breechblock is if the breechblock were moved away from the clamping jaw 7 and base 2 in one of the positions shown in Figures 1 or 2. In that position the "opening" 14 and the opening 10 are clearly not situated to allow a tool to manipulate one relative to the other. When the two are in the position of Figure 3, there is no possible manipulation because the wedge 9 is secured against movement in any direction.

C. **United States Patent No. 2,085,333 (“the Reynolds patent”)**

The Examiner relies upon the *Reynolds* reference as teaching a wedge portion 31 including an opening 36. The *Reynolds* reference teaches, “A hole 36 is provided for drifting or driving the wedge out of the socket when the rope or cable is to be removed.” (Column 3, lines 33-35)

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)
BASED UPON THE SCHMIDT REFERENCE

The Examiner contends that the *Schmidt* reference anticipates claims 13-16, 19 and 23. In the Examiner’s opinion, the *Schmidt* reference “shows an extruded socket portion 11 having oppositely facing engaging surfaces (inside surfaces of walls 20) inside the socket portion 11, and an extruded wedge portion 52 that is at least partially received within the socket portion 11 such that a portion of the elongated load bearing member 62 is received between the engaging surfaces 20 and the socket portion 11 and the wedge portion 52 (see Figures 1-3).” (Final Office Action, paragraph 4g).

With regard to claim 19, the Examiner contends that the *Schmidt* reference shows “a brace portion 36 that secures the wedge portion 52 within the socket portion 11 and wherein the brace portion 36 includes a load bearing member engaging surface 44 that is adapted to secure a portion of the load bearing member 62 between the brace member 15 and the socket portion 11 (Figures 2-3).” (Final Office Action, paragraph 4k).

THE SCHMIDT REFERENCE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY OF THE CLAIMS

The Examiner improperly interprets the *Schmidt* reference as teaching an extruded part. None of the parts in the *Schmidt* reference can be formed using an extrusion. Claim 13 clearly recites that the socket and the wedge are extruded. This limitation is not a product-by process limitation and, therefore, structurally distinguishes the claimed arrangement from what is taught in the *Schmidt* reference. The second paragraph of MPEP 2113, for example, clearly indicates that a limitation such as “extruded” is a structural limitation that should be considered for patentability purposes.

An extruded part results from material such as metal being forced through a die. None of the portions of the *Schmidt* reference shown in the illustrations is an extruded part. The complex configuration of the saddle 14 and the wedge 52 would not result from an extrusion process and, therefore, they cannot be considered extruded parts. The Examiner’s interpretation of the *Schmidt* reference in this regard is wrong.

Additionally, the *Schmidt* reference does not shown oppositely facing engaging surfaces on a socket portion where a portion of an elongated load bearing member is received between the engaging surfaces of the socket portion and the wedge portion. The Examiner interprets the walls 20 on the inside of the socket housing assembly 11 as being oppositely facing engaging surfaces. There is no engagement between those walls 20 and the cable 62 of the *Schmidt* reference, however. This is apparent from Figure 4, for example, where the sidewalls are spaced a considerable distance from the cable 62 when it is received around the wedge. The outside dimension of the cable is even less than the outside dimension of the wedge 52 which is received

between the walls 20 of the socket housing assembly 11. Without any engagement between oppositely facing engaging walls of the socket portion and the cable 62, there is no possible anticipation.

CLAIMS 13-16 AND 23 ARE ALLOWABLE

Because the *Schmidt* reference does not teach any extruded parts and does not have oppositely facing engaging surfaces as required by claim 13, claims 13-16 and 23 cannot be anticipated. Two independent reasons for finding no anticipation exists. If either one were true, the claims should be allowed. Because both are true, the rejection must be reversed.

CLAIM 19 IS ALLOWABLE

Claim 19 is separately patentable because it includes the further limitation that a brace portion has a load bearing member engaging surface that is adapted to secure a portion of a load bearing member between the brace member and the socket portion. The housing cap portion 15 of the *Schmidt* reference, which the Examiner interprets as a brace, does not have any surface that engages the cable 62 between such a surface and an outside surface on the socket housing assembly 11. As can be appreciated from the figures, the cable 62 is received around the wedge 12 with one portion (see the top of Figure 3, for example), received between the wedge and the cap 15. This is not the same as being received between the cap and the socket housing assembly 11. In order for the cap 15 and the saddle 14 to satisfy claim 19, the cable 62 would have to be received between them in a manner that it would be engaged by a surface on both. That simply does not occur in the *Schmidt* reference and claim 19 cannot be anticipated.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. BASED UPON THE *BRENDEL* REFERENCE

The Examiner contends that the *Brendel* reference “shows and discloses an extruded socket portion 2, 7 having oppositely facing engaging surfaces 5 (inside surfaces of walls of 2, 7 - see Figures 7-10) inside the socket portion 2, 7; and an extruded wedge portion 9 that is at least partially received within the socket portion 2, 7 such that a portion of an elongated load bearing member 6 is received between the engaging surfaces 5 of the socket portion 2, 7 and the wedge portion 9 (see Figures 1-6; see especially column 5, lines 32-39).” Final Office Action, paragraph 5g.

With respect to claim 17, the Examiner contends that the *Brendel* reference “shows the brace 12 including an opening (circumscribed by element 14) through at least one sidewall of the brace 12 and the wedge portion 9 includes an opening 10, the openings being situated such that a tool can be received into the openings and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion 9 relative to the brace 12 (see Figures 1-3).” Final Office Action, paragraph 5i.

With respect to claim 26, the Examiner contends that *Brendel* “shows a socket portion 2, 7; a wedge portion 9 that is at least partially received within the socket portion 2, 7 such that a portion of an elongated load bearing member 6 is received between the socket portion 2, 7 and the wedge portion 9; and at least one brace member 12 that secures the wedge portion 9 within the socket portion 2, 7, the brace member 12 including an opening (circumscribed by element 14) through at least one wall of the brace member 12 and the wedge portion 9 including an opening 10, the openings being situated such that a tool can be received into the openings and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion 9 relative to the brace 12 (see Figures 1-4).” Final Office Action, paragraph 5l.

NONE OF THE CLAIMS ARE ANTICIPATED BY THE *BRENDEL* REFERENCE

Again, the Examiner is improperly interpreting the reference as teaching an extruded part. The *Brendel* reference, as noted above, specifically teaches that the individual parts shown in that reference can be shaped or formed using punches or presses or casting. None of those processes are the same as that required to produce an extruded part and, therefore, none of the parts of the *Brendel* reference can be construed as an extruded part. Moreover, when one considers the drawings of the *Brendel* reference it becomes clear that none of those pieces can be formed as an extruded part. A basic understanding of an extrusion process where a material such as metal is forced through a die requires that one interpret *Brendel* as not teaching an extruded socket nor an extruded wedge.

Additionally, as pointed out above, the opening 10 in the wedge 9 and the hook element 14 of the breach block 12 of the *Brendel* reference do not cooperate in a manner that allows them to be situated like the openings claimed in claim 26.

CLAIMS 13-16, 18 AND 24 ARE ALLOWABLE

Claim 13 recites that the socket and the wedge are extruded parts. This structural limitation on the socket and wedge of claim 13 clearly distinguishes the claims from the teachings of the *Brendel* reference, which does not even contemplate an extruded piece.

CLAIM 17 IS ALLOWABLE

In addition to having the extruded limitation of claim 13, claim 17 recites that the brace includes an opening and the wedge includes an opening. These openings are situated such that a tool can be received into them and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion relative to the brace. The Examiner improperly interprets the opening 10 in the wedge 9 of the *Brendel* reference and the “opening” associated with the hook 14 as being able to satisfy the limitations recited in claim 17. As noted above, when the *Brendel* reference arrangement is in the configuration shown in Figures 1, 2 or 4, the “opening” of the breach block 12 and the opening 10 of the wedge are not situated such that a tool can be received by them for manipulating one relative to the other or even for manipulating the wedge 9 relative to the base 2 and the clamping jaw 7. In the position illustrated in Figure 3, the carriage bolt 11 is securely engaged by the hook portion 14 so that the opening 10 (even if it is accessible) does not allow a tool to manipulate the wedge 9 relative to the socket 2, 7 or relative to the breach block 12. In the position of Figure 3, the hook 14 pulls on the carriage bolt 11 to urge the wedge downward (according to the drawing) into the tightest possible position. At the same time, the engagement between the carriage bolt 11 and the hook 14 prevents the wedge 9 from being manipulated in an upward direction. In other words, in the position of Figure 3, the pieces 9, 2, 7 and 12 are locked into position and cannot be manipulated relative to each other until the breach block 12 is pivoted into the position shown in Figure 4, for example. Accordingly, the “openings” of the *Brendel* reference can never be situated in a position that allows a tool to manipulate the wedge relative to the other portions as required by claim 17.

Claim 17 cannot possibly be anticipated by the *Brendel* reference. There are at least three distinct differences between the teachings of the *Brendel* reference and claim 17 and it must be allowed.

CLAIM 26 IS ALLOWABLE

Claim 26 recites that the brace includes an opening and the wedge includes an opening. These openings are situated such that a tool can be received into them and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion relative to the brace. The Examiner improperly interprets the opening 10 in the wedge 9 of the *Brendel* reference and the “opening” associated with the hook 14 as being able to satisfy the limitations recited in claim 26. As noted above, when the *Brendel* reference arrangement is in the configuration shown in Figures 1, 2 or 4, the “opening” of the breach block 12 and the opening 10 of the wedge are not situated such that a tool can be received by them for manipulating one relative to the other or even for manipulating the wedge 9 relative to the socket made of the base 2 and the clamping jaw 7. Even in the position illustrated in Figure 3, the carriage bolt 11 is securely engaged by the hook portion 14 so that the opening 10 (even if part of it is accessible) cannot be accessed by a tool in a manner to manipulate the wedge 9 relative to the socket 2, 7 or relative to the breach block 12. In the position of Figure 3, the hook 14 pulled on the carriage bolt 11 to urge the wedge downward (according to the drawing) into the tightest possible position. At the same time, the engagement between the carriage bolt 11 and the hook 14 prevents the wedge 9 from being manipulated in an upward direction. In other words, in the position of Figure 3, the pieces 9, 2, 7 and 12 are locked into position and cannot be manipulated relative to each other until the breach block 12 is pivoted into position shown in Figure 4, for example. Accordingly, the

“openings” of the *Brendel* reference can never be situated in a position that allows a tool to manipulate the wedge relative to the other portions as required by claim 26.

Claim 26 cannot possibly be anticipated by the *Brendel* reference.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner proposes to combine the *Schmidt* reference with the *Reynolds* reference contending that it would be obvious to add the opening found in the wedge of *Reynolds* to the wedge of the *Schmidt* reference to “modify the brace and wedge of *Schmidt* by providing access holes in order to allow easy removal of the wedge by use of the tool as taught by *Reynolds*.”

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 IS IMPROPER

It is axiomatic that there must be a proper legal motivation to make a proposed combination. Where there is no benefit to making a combination, there is no motivation and no *prima facie* case of obviousness. In this instance, the *Schmidt* reference specifically teaches a particular arrangement that facilitates separating the wedge 52 from the saddle portion 14. Column 2, lines 50-60 of the *Schmidt* reference, for example, show that *Schmidt* teaches using a technique that is significantly different than that taught by *Reynolds*. The *Schmidt* reference teaches cutting the cable and knocking the housing cap 15 off the saddle 14 to then remove the wedge 52. There would be no benefit to adding a hole as taught by *Reynolds* because *Schmidt* already uses a very different arrangement for separating the pieces. The very design of the *Schmidt* reference pieces facilitates the type of separation taught by *Schmidt* and adding to them a hole or holes taught as by *Reynolds* has no benefit or purpose within the reasonable interpretation of the scope of the

teachings of the *Schmidt* reference. *Schmidt* already accommodates easier separation and adding the *Reynolds* hole would be redundant, at best. Without any benefit to making the proposed modification, there is no legal motivation and the combination cannot be made.

CLAIM 17 IS ALLOWABLE

Without a *prima facie* case of obviousness, claim 17 cannot be considered obvious. Additionally, even the improper combination of *Reynolds* and *Schmidt* does not result in the claimed invention. Claim 17, which depends from claim 13, includes an extruded socket and an extruded wedge. That is not shown in either of the references that the Examiner proposes to combine. Accordingly, even if the combination were made the result is not the same as the claimed invention and claim 17 cannot be considered obvious.

CLAIM 26 IS ALLOWABLE

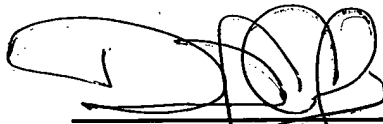
As noted above, there is no motivation for making the combination and there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness. Claim 26 cannot be considered obvious over the improper combination of *Schmidt* and *Reynolds*.

CONCLUSION

None of the claims are anticipated by the *Schmidt* or *Brendel* references. Neither of those references disclose an extruded piece nor do they disclose openings as recited in claim 26, for example. The proposed combination for rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 cannot be made because there is no legal motivation for making the combination. All claims are allowable. All rejections must be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



February 23, 2004
Date

David J. Gaskey
Registration No. 37,139
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Appeal Brief (in triplicate)** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patent, Commissioner For Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 23, 2004.


Theresa M. Palmateer

APPENDIX OF CLAIMS

1. A device for securing an end of an elongated load bearing member in an elevator system, comprising:

a socket portion having oppositely facing engaging surfaces inside the socket portion;

a wedge portion that is at least partially received within the socket portion such that a portion of the elongated load bearing member is received between the engaging surfaces of the socket portion and the wedge portion; and

at least one brace member that secures the wedge portion within the socket portion where the brace member has an engaging surface on an inside of the brace member and the socket portion includes a cooperating engaging surface on an outside of the socket portion for holding a section of the load bearing member between the socket portion outside engaging surface and the brace member inside engaging surface.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the socket portion is an extruded metal piece.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the wedge portion is an extruded metal piece.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the socket portion and the wedge portion have a constant cross sectional profile.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the brace member comprises a U-bolt.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the socket portion includes a receiver portion that receives a corresponding portion of the U-bolt and permits the U-bolt to move about the axis of the corresponding portion relative to the socket portion.

7. The device of claim 6, including a securing member that secures a terminal end of the elongated load bearing member against an outer surface on the socket portion.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the securing member comprises a spring clip.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the spring clip includes a plurality of slots for receiving a portion of the U-bolt as the U-bolt is moved relative to the socket portion.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the brace is an extruded metal piece that is received at least partially around the socket.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein the socket includes a projection that operates to hold the brace in place on the socket.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein the brace includes an opening through at least one sidewall of the brace and the wedge portion includes an opening, the openings being situated such that a tool can be received into the openings and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion relative to the brace.

13. A device for securing an end of an elongated load bearing member in an elevator system, comprising:

an extruded socket portion having oppositely facing engaging surfaces inside the socket portion; and

an extruded wedge portion that is at least partially received within the socket portion such that a portion of the elongated load bearing member is received between the engaging surfaces of the socket portion and the wedge portion.

14. The device of claim 13, including at least one brace member that secures the wedge portion within the socket portion.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the brace member is an extruded metal piece.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the socket includes a projection that operates to hold the brace in place on the socket.

17. The device of claim 15, wherein the brace includes an opening through at least one sidewall of the brace and the wedge portion includes an opening, the openings being situated such that a tool can be received into the openings and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion relative to the brace.

18. The device of claim 13, wherein the socket portion includes a first and a second leg, the first leg being obliquely oriented relative to the second leg and being moveable into a generally parallel alignment with the second leg responsive to movement of the wedge portion within the socket portion.

19. The device of claim 13, including a brace portion that secures the wedge portion within the socket portion and wherein the brace portion includes a load bearing member engaging surface that is adapted to secure a portion of the load bearing member between the brace member and the socket portion.

20. The device of claim 1, wherein the wedge portion has oppositely facing engaging surfaces on an outside of the wedge portion and wherein one section of the elongated load bearing member is held between one of the wedge portion engaging surfaces and one of the socket portion engaging surfaces and wherein another section of the load bearing member is held between the other wedge portion engaging surface and the other socket portion engaging surface.

21. The device of claim 1, wherein the engaging surfaces on the socket portion are part of a continuous engaging surface inside the socket portion.

23. The device of claim 13, wherein the engaging surfaces on the socket portion are part of a continuous engaging surface inside the socket portion.

24. The device of claim 13, wherein the wedge portion has oppositely facing engaging surfaces on an outside of the wedge portion and a first section of the load bearing member is held between one of the wedge portion engaging faces and one of the socket portion engaging faces and another section of the load bearing member is held between the other wedge portion engaging surface and the other socket portion engaging surface.

25. The device of claim 14, where the brace member has an engaging surface on an inside of the brace member and the socket portion includes a cooperating engaging surface on an outside of the socket portion for holding a section of the load bearing member between the socket portion outside engaging surface and the brace member inside engaging surface.

26. A device for securing an end of an elongated load bearing member in an elevator system, comprising:

a socket portion;

a wedge portion that is at least partially received within the socket portion such that a portion of the elongated load bearing member is received between the socket portion and the wedge portion; and

at least one brace member that secures the wedge portion within the socket portion, the brace member including an opening through at least one side wall of the brace member and the wedge portion including an opening, the openings being situated such that a tool can be received into the openings and utilized to manipulate the wedge portion relative to the brace.

28. A device for securing an end of an elongated load bearing member in an elevator system, comprising:

a socket portion having oppositely facing engaging surfaces inside the socket portion;

a wedge portion that is at least partially received within the socket portion such that a portion of the elongated load bearing member is received between the engaging surfaces of the socket portion and the wedge portion; and

at least one brace member that secures the wedge portion within the socket portion wherein the socket portion and the wedge portion have a constant cross sectional profile.